



100 Years Gone

The extinction of passenger pigeons

We grieve because no living man will see again the onrushing phalanx of victorious birds, sweeping a path for spring across the March skies, chasing the defeated winter from all the woods and prairies of Wisconsin.

Men still live who, in their youth, remember pigeons. Trees still live who, in their youth, were shaken by a living wind. But a decade hence only the oldest oaks will remember, and at long last only the hills will know.

There will always be pigeons in books and in museums, but these are effigies and images, dead to all hardships and to all delights. Book-pigeons cannot dive out of a cloud to make the deer run for cover, or clap their wings in thunderous applause of mast-laden woods. Book-pigeons cannot breakfast on new-mown wheat in Minnesota, and dine on blueberries in Canada. They know no urge of seasons; they feel no kiss of sun, no lash of wind and weather, they live forever by not living at all.

The pigeon was a biological storm. He was the lightning that played between two opposing potentials of intolerable intensity: the fat of the land and the oxygen of the air. Yearly the feathered tempest roared up, down, and across the continent, sucking up the laden fruits of forest and prairie, burning them in a traveling blast of life. Like any other chain reaction, the pigeon could survive no diminution of his own furious intensity. When the pigeoneers subtracted from his numbers, and the pioneers chopped gaps in the continuity of his fuel, his flame guttered out with hardly a sputter or even a wisp of smoke.

Today the oaks still flaunt their burden at the sky, but the feathered lightning is no more.

From On a Monument to the Pigeon
Aldo Leopold, 1947



"The Passenger Pigeon" by John James Audubon depicts a male (lower) and female (upper) passenger pigeon billing during courtship.

September 1, 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the last known passenger pigeon. No living person has seen flocks of pigeons darken the skies for days, but we still mourn their loss and wonder what could have been. Today, success stories like those of the bald eagle, the wild turkey, and the white-tailed deer show how much we have learned about conservation since the extinction of the passenger pigeon.

—Amanda Moore
Naturalist

All Missouri Department of Conservation Offices will be closed for the following holidays:
Independence Day-July 4, 2014
Labor Day-September 1, 2014

Northeast Regional Office and Interpretive Center

3500 S. Baltimore, Kirksville, MO 63501 • mdc.mo.gov/node/279



The Northeast Regional Office and Interpretive Center is located just south of Kirksville on Hwy 63. Come inside to enjoy exhibits, attend programs, purchase permits, and pick up free conservation brochures. Head outside to walk the habitat trail or fish in the stocked pond.

HOURS

Building:

Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM

Trail and Pond:

Daily, 4 AM-10 PM

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM

Programs are free. Call 660-785-2420 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

July Events

Knee High Naturalists The Tiny Seed

July 7 • Monday • 10:30–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 3-6)

What are seeds for and what do they need? Join us as we read Eric Carle's "The Tiny Seed". We will find out what a seed needs to grow into a big, healthy



plant. We will also plant seeds to take home.

Creature Feature Seed Needs

July 9 • Wednesday

3:30–4:30 PM

No registration required (ages 7-12)

New plants grow from seeds, but what does it take for a seed to sprout and survive? We will discover what a seed needs through hands-on activities, including designing your own seed and planting seeds to take home!.

Conservation Keepers Firefly Fest

July 19 • Saturday • 8–9 PM

No registration required (all ages)

When the day starts to fade, the lightning bugs start to fly up from the grass, flashing their lights across the fields. These fascinating fireflies are the focus of our evening activities this month. Join us for some night-time exploration!

Knee High Naturalists Ladybug's Life

July 21 • Monday • 10:30–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 3-6)

"Ladybug, ladybug fly away home..." is often sung by children to the ladybugs they find. Ladybugs, also called ladybird beetles, are common but fascinating insects. Come join us as we read a ladybug story and learn about the life cycle of a ladybug. Hopefully we will even find some ladybugs in their habitat!

Creature Feature Insect Investigation

July 23 • Wednesday • 7–8 PM

No registration required (ages 7-12)

Explore the wonderful world of insects with us! We will find out everything we need to know to recognize an insect



and spend some time outside collecting and identifying insects.

August Events

Knee High Naturalists What's In The Water?

August 4 • Monday • 10:30–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 3-6)

We know fish live in the water, but what else can you find in an aquatic habitat? We are going to explore the wetlands and pond, looking for all kinds of animals! Be prepared to get wet and muddy as we collect critters and see what is in the water!

Creature Feature Macroinvertebrate Mania

August 13 • Wednesday

3:30–4:30 PM

No registration required (ages 7-12)

Aquatic habitats are home to many different kinds of animals, including macroinvertebrates. Get ready to get wet and muddy as we explore the wetlands and pond to find and identify macroinvertebrates!

Conservation Keepers A World of Water

August 16 • Saturday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Ponds, streams, wetlands, and other aquatic habitats are home to a wide variety of plants and animals. We will be exploring aquatic habitats to determine how healthy they are. Be prepared to

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get wet and muddy at this program!

Knee High Naturalists The Awesome Opossum

August 18 • Monday
10:30–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 3-6)

The opossum is a one-of-a-kind Missouri mammal that can be seen in your own yard. They might be considered a pest due to their love of garbage, but they sure are interesting! Come explore opossums with us!

Creature Feature The Awesome Opossum

August 27 • Wednesday
3:30–4:30 PM

No registration required (ages 7-12)

The opossum is a one-of-a-kind Missouri mammal that can be seen in your own yard. They might be considered a pest due to their love of garbage, but they sure are interesting! Come explore opossums with us!

September Events

Creature Feature Animals in Danger

September 10 • Wednesday
3:30–4:30 PM

No registration required (ages 7-12)

What does it mean when an animal is endangered? What animals in Missouri are endangered? Is there something we can do to help preserve these animals? Join us to answer these questions about animals in danger!

Knee High Naturalists Fall Fungus

September 15 • Monday
10:30–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 3-6)

Many people think about mushrooms in the spring when it is time to hunt for morels, but interesting fungi can be found all year round. We will not be tasting them, but come hunt for fall fungi on the habitat trail with us!



Conservation Keepers Lost Birds

September 20 • Saturday • 1–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)

Bring your family to a viewing of "The Lost Bird Project", a film made in memory of five birds that have gone extinct in North America. After the film, we will have time for discussion and will create origami passenger pigeons to join with others at Fold the Flock.

Creature Feature Fall Fungus

September 24 • Wednesday
3:30–4:30 PM

No registration required (ages 7-12)

Many people think about mushrooms in the spring when it is time to hunt for morels, but interesting fungi can be found all year round. We will not be tasting them, but come hunt for fall fungi on the habitat trail with us!



The Virginia opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*, is the only marsupial found in the United States.



Hunter Education

mdc.mo.gov/node/3722



These free courses are required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. Hunters under 15 years of age who will be hunting with a properly permitted hunter age 18 or over, hunters that are 16 or older and have an Apprentice Hunter Authorization, or landowners or lessees hunting on land that they own or reside upon are exempted from the hunter education requirement. Anyone age 11 or older may take the hunter education course and become certified.

There are two parts of the hunter education requirements, knowledge and skills. The knowledge portion can be completed through one of three options. An online course is available, as well as a self-study guide and a classroom session. Once the knowledge portion is completed, hunters must attend and pass a 4-hour skills session to become hunter education certified. Registration for classes is available online.

If you have any questions about hunter education, please contact Outdoor Skills Specialist Rob Garver by calling 660-785-2420.



Northeast Nature Notes is available by mail, e-mail, and on the MDC website.

To be added to the mail or e-mail registry, or to switch from one to the other, please contact Amanda Moore at amanda.moore@mdc.mo.gov or call 660-785-2420.

The online version of the newsletter is available at mdc.mo.gov/node/17875.

A full event calendar for the Northeast region is also available on the MDC website.

Fun and Free

Stop by the MDC Northeast Regional Office in Kirksville during office hours to check out a Discover Nature backpack. These backpacks give you a self-guided tour of the natural world as you walk the habitat trail.

Backpacks can be checked out at the front desk. Each backpack is loaded with tools and information to enhance your experience, from magnifiers and measuring tapes to field guides and a nature journal.



What is a Discovery Trunk?

Each Discovery Trunk is filled with a wide variety of items chosen for you to immediately implement into your nature study unit. The contents of each trunk include items such as children's books, field ID guides, puppets, videos, posters, and other items specific to the theme of the trunk. A binder of background information with lesson plans and activities is also included in each trunk.

Discovery Trunks are designed for use by early childhood through secondary classrooms, public, private, or home-school. Trunk themes include mammals, insects, fish, birds, caves, and more! The Discovery Trunks can be checked out for up to two weeks, so call your local MDC office and reserve yours today!

Places to Go

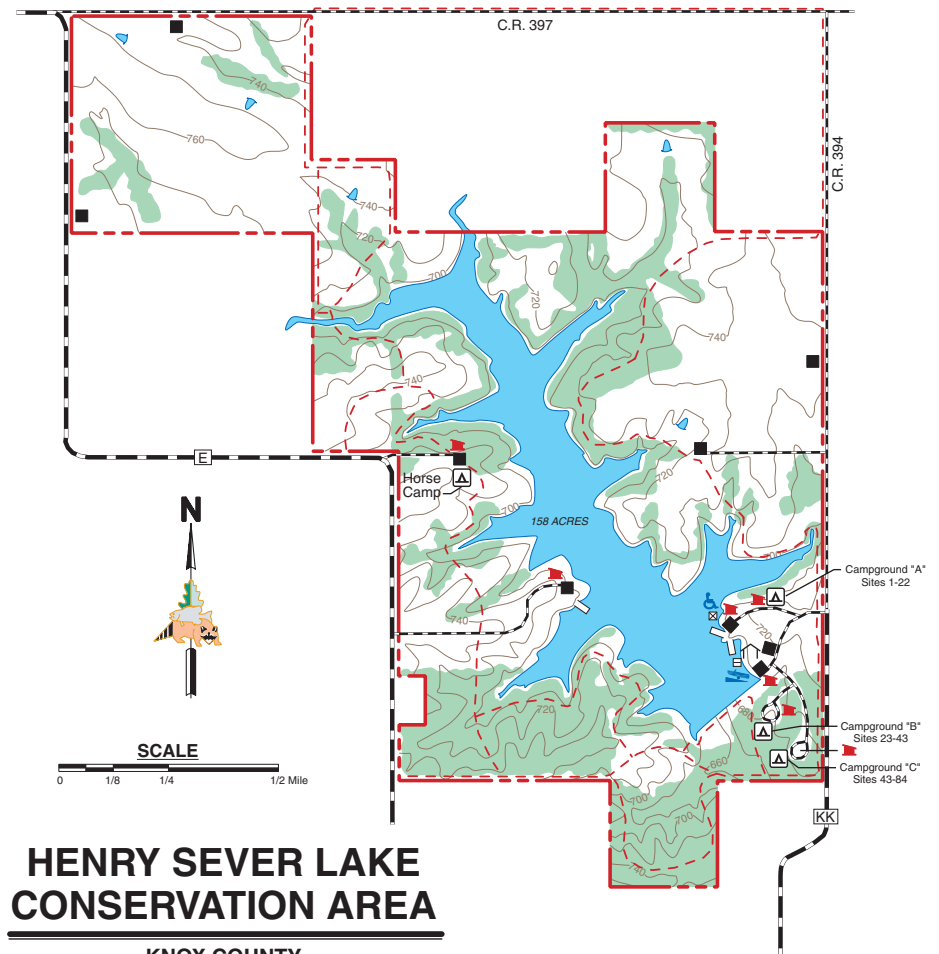
Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area is located between Newark and Knox City in Knox County. The 1115-acre area includes forest, prairie, and lake habitats. The 158-acre lake is stocked with channel catfish and blue catfish, and is one of the two locations in Missouri where you can find muskellunge.

The original 747 acres were purchased through a trust fund established by Henry Sever. The land was deeded to the Department of Conservation in 1959.

Fishing is a popular activity at Henry Sever Lake, with a concrete boat ramp, disabled-accessible fishing dock, fishing jetties, and boat rentals available for the public. Boat rental arrangements can be made by calling (217) 617-3006 between the hours of 1 PM and Sunset daily.

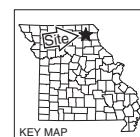
An 84-site campground is also available at the area. Campsites include gravel pads, fire grates, potable water, and nearby privies. A horse camp with 6 campsites for equestrian users is also available.

Hiking, biking, and horseback riding are available on the 7.5 mile multi-use trail. Hunting is also an option at Henry Sever Lake, with good populations of deer, turkey, and other game.

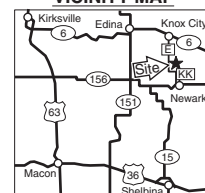


LEGEND

Boundary	---
Paved Road	—
Gravel Road	- - -
Multi-Use Trail	- . - . -
Parking Lot	■
Pond	■
Privy	▲
Fishing Dock	▢
Courtesy Dock	▢
Pavilion	▢
Jetty	—
Boat Ramp	▢
Primitive Camping-Individual Sites	▲
Forest	■
Topography	▨
Disabled Accessible	♿



VICINITY MAP





CATFISH CAMP

**Saturday, August 23rd
through
Sunday, August 24th**

**Ted Shanks and
DuPont Reservation
Conservation Areas**

**To register or for
more information
contact:**

**Rob Garver
At 660-785-2420 or
rob.garver@mdc.mo.gov**

Join us for an exciting catfishing experience on the Mississippi! This event will begin at 1 PM Saturday afternoon at the Ted Shanks CA with catfish biology, regulations and fishing presentations.

Participants will spend Saturday evening on the river setting lines and will check the lines Sunday morning. Camping and pole and line fishing will be available Saturday evening for those interested.

This event is offered free of charge and is open to all ages. Participants 16 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

discover nature programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide



CONSERVATION KEEPERS: FIREFLY FEST



Photo by Art Farmer

Saturday, June 21, 2014

8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Northeast Regional Office

When the day starts to fade, the lightning bugs start to fly up from the grass, flashing their lights across the fields. These fascinating fireflies are the focus of our evening activities this month. Join us for some night-time exploration!

No registration is required for this **FREE** family program!

**Call Amanda at (660) 785-2420
for more information.**

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www.MissouriConservation.org



Serving nature and you



The Ozark hellbender (above) and the eastern hellbender (right) are large salamanders that live in streams in southern Missouri. Both are listed as endangered in the state of Missouri, meaning they could become extinct within the next 20 years. The Ozark hellbender is also listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. Its population has declined about 75% since the 1980s.

Restoration efforts for Missouri's hellbenders include hatching programs at MDC's Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery in Branson and at the St. Louis Zoo. In 2011, the first captive breeding of the Ozark hellbender took place at the St. Louis Zoo, resulting in more than 150 larval hellbenders.



National Hunting and Fishing Day

National Hunting and Fishing Day takes place this year on September 27. Come join us at the NEMO Fairgrounds in Kirksville from 9 AM to 4 PM for goodies, presentations, and more.

Visit the booths of taxidermists, fish and wildlife groups and other organizations for information about hunting and fishing in Missouri. Check out presentations on turkey hunting, turkey research, introducing kids to hunting, and MDC's deer management plan. A NASP tournament will also take place at the event.

There is no registration required to attend this FREE family event, so bring the whole family along to enjoy National Hunting and Fishing Day. For more information, contact Rob Garver at 660-785-2420.